

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4719

NEA ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, SA, US
SUBJECT: BRIEFING SAG ON ECONOMIC SUMMIT

1. I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH TWINAM POSSIBILITY THAT UNDER SECRETARY COOPER, TREASURY UNDER SECRETARY SOLOMON OR HENRY OWEN MIGHT BE ABLE TO COME TO SAUDI ARABIA TO BRIEF APPROPRIATE SENIOR SAG OFFICIALS ON ECONOMIC SUMMIT. I WOULD OF COURSE VERY MUCH WELCOME THIS.

2. I UNDERSTAND SCHEDULES OF THESE OFFICIALS SUGGEST VISIT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE POST-SUMMIT.

3. IF THERE IS ANY FLEXIBILITY, HOWEVER, I SUGGEST THAT OBVIOUS MERITS OF SENIOR USG OFFICIAL TELLING SAG WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED AT SUMMIT RATHER THAN MERELY REVIEWING U.S. POSITION PRIOR TO MEETING BE WEIGHED AGAINST TWO CONSIDERATIONS STEMMING FROM PRINCE SAUD RECENT VISIT WITH SECRETARY:

A) SAUD STRESS ON IMPORTANCE OF U.S.-SAUDI CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC MEETINGS; AND
B) DREWBACKS OF SENIOR OFFICIAL HAVING TO HIGH-LIGHT RESULTS OF SUMMIT SHOULD THEY INCLUDE CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF U.S. PROGRESS IN RESTRAINING INFLATION AND OIL IMPORTS, ESPECIALLY IF USG SHOULD MOVE TOWARD
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IMPOSING OIL IMPORT FEE IN SUMMIT CONTEXT.
THESE ARE CONSIDERATIONS WHICH WASHINGTON FAR BETTER TO EVALUATE THAN WE ARE HERE.

4. IN ANY EVENT, I AM CONFIDENT SAG WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE DISCUSSION WITH ANY OF THE THREE. WHEN FIRM DATE PROPOSED WE CAN DETERMINE WHO MIGHT BE

AVAILABLE TO RECEIVE THEM. WHILE KING OR CROWN PRINCE
MIGHT WELCOME COURTESY CALL, THEIR SCHEDULES PERMITTING,
POST BELIEVES THAT ACTUAL BRIEFING WOULD BE MORE EFFEC-
TIVE IF GIVEN TO THOSE KEY ECONOMIC MINISTERS COMPRISING
HIGHER PETROLEUM COUNCIL -- YAMANI, ABA AL KHAYL, NAZER,
GOSAIBI, AND PRINCE SAUD. GOVERNMENT WILL BE IN JIDDA
FROM APPROXIMATELY JULY 1 TO 15 AND THEN IN NEARBY TAIF.
WHILE WE COULD NOT HOPE ALL OF ABOVE MENTIONED WILL BE
IN COUNTRY DURING VISIT, WE ARE FAIRLY CONFIDENT OF
ARRANGING A DECENT QUORUM. YAMANI WILL OF COURSE BE OF
SPECIAL INTEREST AND SHOULD HE BE AWAY, PERHAPS A
SEPRATE BRIEFING AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT EUROPEAN OF
NORTH AMERICAN SITE COULD BE ARRANGED.
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